

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8606

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6508

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: PS AND PPD COMPROMISE ON COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

REF: LISBON 6398 (DTG 171551Z SEP 76)

SUMMARY: THE PS AND PPD REACHED A COMPROMISE AGREEMENT
SEPT 21 ON COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE
REPUBLIC. THE PS YIELDED THE PRIZED NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE
TO THE PPD IN ORDER TO RECOVER PPD GOOD WILL. END SUMMARY.

1. LAST-MIUTE COMPROMISE: THE SOCIALISTS AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS
ON SEPT 21 RESOLVED THEIR DISPUTE OVER COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS
IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC THROUGH A LAST-MINUTE COMPROMISE.

THE PS YIELDED THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE COMMITTEE TO THE PPD IN RETURN FOR THE CHAIR-

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MANSHIP OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

PPD LEADER ANTONIO BARBOSA DE MELO STATED THAT THE COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ALSO CALLED FOR THE PPD TO RECEIVE THE VICE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ECONOMY, FINANCE, AND PLANNING COMMITTEE. HE EXPRESSED COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH THE OUTCOME.

2. COMMITTEE OFFICERS ELECTED: THE RULES COMMITTEE AND FOUR OF THE NINE SPECIALIZED ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES MET SEPT 21 TO DISTRIBUTE COMMITTEE OFFICES. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOLLOW:

-- RULES: PRESIDENT: ALVARO MONTEIRO (PS); VP: MANUEL VILHENA DE CARVALHO (PPD).
-- RIGHTS, LIBERTIES AND GUARANTEES: PRESIDENT: ARTUR CUNHA LEAL (PPD); VP: HERCULANO PIRES (PS).
-- LABOR: PRES: ANTONIO AIRES RODRIGUES (PS); VP: DOMINGOS ABRANTES FERREIRA (PCP).
-- CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS: PRES: VITAL MOREIRA (PCP); VP: RUI MACHETE (PPD).
-- SOCIAL SECURITY AND HEALTH: PRES: JOSE SERVULO CORREIA (PPD); VP: CARLOS SANTOS FERREIRA (PS).

3. TWO SECRETARIES WERE ELECTED TO EACH COMMITTEE. THE FOUR COMMITTEE OFFICES WERE DISTRIBUTED SO AS TO GIVE THE PS, PPD, CDS, AND PCP ONE OFFICE ON EACH COMMITTEE.

4. COMMENT: IN RELINQUISHING THE PRIZED NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE, THE PS WENT FAR TO RESTORE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE PPD. POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNPREPAREDNESS FOR TOUGH PS BARGAINING CONTRIBUTED TO THE PPD SETBACK IN THE ORIGINAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS. THE PS LEADERSHIP MADE CLEAR IN REVERSING ITS POSITION THAT IT DID NOT WANT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE PPD. PS NEGOTIATOR ANTONIO REIS PAID THE PRICE BY GIVING UP HIS AMBITIONS TO CHAIR THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE.
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